

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 AID-05 PC-01 /043 W

----- 113684

R 030949Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7496

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 11319

FOLLOWING REPEAT MADRAS 1353 SENT ACTION NEW DELHI

INFO BOMBAY/CALCUTTA 02 AUG 76.

QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRAS 1353

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER ON KERALA ELECTIONS AND CPI/CPM RAPPROCH-
MENT.

REF: MADRAS 1280

1. M. M. JACOB, KERALA PRADESH CONGRESS COMMITTEE (KPCC) AND AICC MEMBER, INFORMED US JULY 30 THAT MRS. GANDHI INSTRUCTED THE KPCC LEADERSHIP DURING THEIR RECENT MEETING IN DELHI (REFTEL) TO BE READY FOR KERALA ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS AT ANY TIME. ACCORDING TO JACOB, MRS. GANDHI GAVE NO INDICATION WHEN ELECTIONS MIGHT BE HELD, BUT MERELY INSTRUCTED THE STATE LEADERSHIP TO BE READY ON FAIRLY SHORT NOTICE. JACOB UNDERSTOOD FROM THE AICC LEADERSHIP IN DELHI THAT MRS. GANDHI WILL FIRST DECIDE (A) WHAT SHE WILL DO IN GUJARAT AND (B) HOW SHE WILL MEET THE PROBABLE DEMAND FOR STATE ELECTIONS IN TAMIL NADU IF SHE HOLDS ELECTIONS IN KERALA, BUT HE GAVE US THE IMPRESSION THAT HE PERSONALLY EXPECTS ELECTIONS TO BE HELD. JACOB BELIEVES MRS. GANDHI WILL EXTEND THE TERM OF THE KERALA ASSEMBLY IN OCTOBER, AND THEN CALL A SNAP ELECTION IN THE STATE. ON THE BASIS OF HIS CONTACTS WITH AICC MEMBERS IN DELHI HE DOES NOT
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EXPECT LOK SABHA ELECTIONS ANY TIME SOON.

2. JACOB SAID THE PRIME MINISTER TOLD THE KPCC LEADERSHIP SHE HAS INFORMATION THAT THE CPI MAY JOIN THE CPM IN KERALA IN THE NEXT STATE AND NATIONAL ELECTIONS, AND SHE DID NOT RULE OUT AN ELECTORAL ALLIANCE BETWEEN THE TWO IN THE STATE AT THAT TIME. SHE REPORTEDLY ADVISED THE KPCC LEADERSHIP TO DO WHAT IT CAN TO KEEP THE CPI IN THE KERALA COALITION. JACOB STATED THAT A SECTION OF THE KPCC WANTS CONGRESS TO LEAD THE NEXT COALITION GOVERNMENT, BUT THE CPI MAY BE UNWILLING TO GIVE UP ITS LEADERSHIP ROLE AND MAY LEAVE THE COALITION AT THE TIME OF THE NEXT ELECTIONS. IN THIS REGARD, MRS. GANDHI APPARENTLY FEELS THAT THE ANTI-CPI WING OF THE KPCC, LED BY C. M. STEPHEN, DEPUTY LEADER OF THE CONGRESS PARLIAMENTARY PARTY AND KERALA INTUC PRESIDENT IS GAINING ASCENDANCY IN THE KPCC AND MAY INSIST ON REDUCING THE CPI ROLE IN THE KERALA COALITION. HE ADDED THAT EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON THE HEALTH OF KERALA CPI CHIEF MINISTER ACHUTHA MENON, WHO IS NOW IN MOSCOW FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT. MCCASKILL

UNQUOTE.
SAXBE

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